

Appln. No.: 10/042,614
Amendment Dated March 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2006

93982-00018**Remarks/Arguments:****Claim Amendments**

Claims 33, 34, 44 - 47 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 33, 44, 45 and 46. Support for the amendments made to these claims can be found throughout the specification and specifically at page 19, line 21 through page 20 line 20.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 33, 34, 44 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,943,000 to Davis *et al* ("Davis *et al.*") in view of Reynolds *et al.*, J. Neurochem, Vol. 68, No. 4, 1997 ("Reynolds *et al.*"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The action states that Davis *et al* disclose *in vitro* and *in vivo* methods for screening inhibitors of JNK3 for diseases involving excitotoxicity. The action then states that Davis *et al.* meet steps (a) and (b) of claim 33 because Davis *et al* disclose incubating a test compound with a JNK and its substrate.

While claims 33, 34, 44 and 47 are directed to screening for inhibitors of JNK and its claimed isoforms, there is no motivation presented by Davis *et al.* to incorporate the claimed steps of this invention. Specifically, as now set forth in claim 33, step (c) requires the contacting step to be conducted in neuronal cells either transfected with mutated protein, specifically polyglutamine stretch-expanded huntingtin or C-terminal 100 amino acids of amyloid precursor protein, or treated with a neurotoxin to induce apoptosis. With regard to testing candidate inhibitory compounds, Davis *et al.* alludes to such testing by broadly stating, "[c]andidate inhibitory compounds can be tested further in cell or tissue cultures as well as animal models." (see Davis *et al.*, column 10, lines 11-13). Davis *et al.* then discloses a single *in vitro* assay for testing such candidate compounds prior to testing or applying such compound *in vivo*. The disclosed *in vitro* assay is directed to measurement of cell lysate protein interactions (see column 10, lines 21-46). There is no disclosure or suggestion in Davis *et al.* to use transfected neuronal cells, or cells treated with neurotoxin for the *in vitro* testing prior to *in vivo* testing or application. Further, Davis *et al.* express no desire or motivation to use an alternative *in vitro* assay to the cell lysate assay disclosed therein, let alone the specific *in vitro* assays set forth in step (c) of claim 44.

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In view of the position set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 33, 34, 44 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. in view of Reynolds et al. be withdrawn.

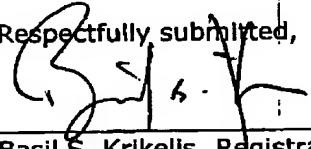
Conclusion

The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to the office action dated November 16, 2006. The embodiments presented are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned. If the Examiner has any questions in connection with this paper, or otherwise if it would facilitate the examination of this application, please call the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Applicant believes that a one-month extension of time is required for entry of the current response and hereby respectfully petitions the Commissioner for a one-month extension. Therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), please accept this as authorization to charge the **Deposit Account No. 50-3570** in the amount of **\$120.00** for a one-month extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1). In the event that any fee has been inadvertently overlooked and is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 50-3570**.

Respectfully submitted,


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